

RUSSIAN DISASTERS.

THE TURKS ACTING ON THE OFFENSIVE.
THESE IMPORTANT POSITIONS WERE TAKEN FROM THE RUSSIAN ARMY OF THE LOM.
MEHMET ALI reports that he attacked the Russians on Thursday, and drove them from the village of Karahassanler. The fighting was desperate. The same evening two other columns, Mehmet Ali says, crossed the Lom, and drove the Russians from Haidarazay. The line of battle extended fifteen miles. The attack was designed to force the Russians back toward the Danube, by intercepting their communications with the forces at Timova. The victory is not of a decisive character. It reflects, however, great credit on the Turkish arms. In Armenia the Russians are now between the Turkish Army and Alexandropol. A Russian detachment is striving to capture Sukum Kalch, where the Turks have made a lodgment.

GREAT BATTLE AT KARAHASSANLER.
THE RUSSIAN ARMY OF THE LOM DRIVEN FROM THE VILLAGE—A VICTORY GAINED, ALSO, BY AHMED KYOD—HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
Mehmet Ali telegraphs as follows: "On Thursday morning, strong columns of our troops from Rasgrad and Surinassouler attacked the Russians near the village of Karahassanler. The fighting was desperate. The village was taken and retaken several times, but finally carried by the Turks. The enemy was defeated, and retreated in disorder, pursued by our troops. About five o'clock in the evening two other columns from Surinassouler crossed the Lom and forced the enemy to abandon Haidarazay and fall back on Pop. My headquarters are at Sekar, from whence I proceed to-morrow to join Ahmed Eyoab Pasha, who is encamped at Karahassanler. The troops engaged at Karahassanler were the Rasgrad and Eski Djuma divisions. They captured a cannon, four ammunition wagons, 2,000 rifles, a large quantity of uniforms and military equipments. Baker Pasha greatly distinguished himself. We lost 3,000 killed and wounded, and the Russians 4,000. [Karahassanler and Haidarazay seem to be identical with Karassan and Haidarkoi of the maps. Pop doubtless means Popskoi, where, according to previous telegrams, the Russians have a strong defensive position.]

THREE RUSSIAN POSITIONS CAPTURED.
LONDON, Saturday, Sept. 1, 1877.
Renter's Shumla dispatch says the fighting lasted three hours. The positions carried by the Turks on the right bank of the Lom are Tolbieler, Spaulier and Karahassanler.

MEHMET ALI COMMANDING IN PERSON.
MANCHESTER, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A telegram was received by The Guardian this afternoon, stating that the expected battle along the line of the Lom from Agashlar to Turkak commenced Thursday and continued all day. Mehmet Ali Pasha commanded the Turks in person, and attacked the Russians at three points. So far the Turks are successful.

INDICATIONS OF THE CONFLICT.
CONSTANTINOPLE, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A telegram from Shumla, dated yesterday, announces that the column of Salim Pasha had advanced from Eski Djuma and crossed the River Lom, near Agashlar, driving back the Russians, who, after a short resistance, retreated from the river. Nedib Pasha has advanced from Rasgrad towards Turkak, repulsing the Russians and capturing two guns. A great battle is believed to be imminent. The Turks are assuming the offensive along the whole line.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.
LONDON, Saturday, Sept. 1, 1877.
The correspondent of The Times with the Turkish Army telegraphs the following description of Thursday's battle, apparently based on personal observation:
Early this morning Nedib Pasha advanced from Adakney, near Rasgrad, with three brigades, two batteries of artillery, two squadrons of cavalry and one brigade of infantry reserve. Mehmet Ali and Prince Hassan took up a position with their staff on a high hill immediately north of Yenikoi, which commands an uninterrupted view from Rasgrad to beyond Osman Bazar. The Russians from their batteries behind Sadana opened fire about 9 o'clock on the advancing Turks. Nedib steadily advanced and entered the burning village of Sadana by 11:30 o'clock. The retreating Russians were badly pressed. They retired precipitately to Karassan, where they made a vigorous stand. Sahit Pasha created a diversion by attacking Haidarkoi. The Russians had a battery of three guns to their right near Haidarkoi. They made splendid practice at the advancing Turks and Egyptians, but these cleverly opened on and advanced to the right and left of the village in a really workmanlike style.

THE CONFLICT WIDENING.
The engagement now became general and extended over some fifteen miles. A heavy and continued roll of fire of skirmishes was heard along all the ridges from Basindler to near Sadana. By 4 o'clock Karassan was in flames. The Russians gradually gave way and the Turks redoubled the energy of their attack. At five o'clock the enemy were scampering off of Haidarkoi, and horses were trotting up to take the guns out of the battery. The Turkish battery was making splendid practice and fired just as the guns were taken off. One gun was struck with the last shell. The Turks cheered and dashed through the blazing village and away to the left to Popskoi like a pack of hounds. The Russian camps were hastily cleared out, two guns covering their retreat and making excellent practice. But the Turks and Egyptians still scampered over the ground in fine style.

THE RUSSIAN IN FULL RETREAT.
The Russians were now in full retreat in every direction, and by sunset the Turks had proved for the second time not only capable of meeting the Russians in the open, but also of driving them from their strongly entrenched positions. In ten days the Russians have lost the magnificent double positions of the Lom and the Kar-Lom.
What may next happen no one knows. It is impossible to tell what forces the Russians had engaged, nor can their losses as yet be estimated. Probably they were not heavy except around Karassan by which name this engagement will be designated by the Turks.

THE ASIATIC CAMPAIGN.

SEKUM KALEH TO BE ATTACKED—TURKS REPULSED.
KURUKDERE, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A Russian official dispatch dated yesterday says: "The Russian troops continue to advance towards Sukum Kalch. Gen. Alchassoff's column crossed the river Kelassuri on the 8th inst. His advanced guard occupied Agdeschagova. The advanced column of Gen. Bibitch's force from the river Marcha arrived on the 24th inst. at the village of Zabelinskoi. The Turks, having received reinforcements, are fortifying Sukum Kalch and the neighboring heights.
"A detachment of the Erivan column under Col.

Jamaloff at Idgiz was attacked on the 24th inst. by a superior Turkish force, which was, however, repulsed. On the 28th three Turkish columns made a fresh attack upon our troops, front and flank. Notwithstanding their immense numerical superiority, the Turks were repulsed after a five hours' engagement, with the loss of 400 men. The Russian losses were insignificant."

THE RUSSIAN CHANGING GROUND.
LONDON, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A Renter telegram from Erzerum says the Russians have changed their position, and are now between the Turkish Army and Alexandropol. They have evacuated their camp at Baldivran, and are withdrawing from that neighborhood.

SERBIA AND ROUMANIA HESITATING.

LONDON, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A Vienna dispatch to The Times confirms the report that the Serbians are hesitating. It says Russia has refused to conclude a formal treaty with either Serbia or Roumania, as by so doing she would acknowledge them as independent powers, which she has been careful not to do in advance of the rest of Europe. The Prince of Roumania has been content to enter into the war, trusting merely to the czar's word that all would be right. Prince Milan is quite ready to do likewise, but Minister Ristia delays by insisting on a formal convention. He probably does not expect to carry his point, but wishes to make the best possible bargain for Serbia, and also delay intervention till a time when it would not expose Serbia to so much risk as at present.

The Turkish Ambassador at Vienna has delivered a note reminding the Powers that Turkey, at the conclusion of the late Serbian war, neglected the opportunity of rendering Serbia harmless at their request, and stating that in case Serbia should again take up arms, Turkey would not consider herself bound hereafter to treat her with the same moderation, and would only consult her own military and political interests.

THE MONTENEGRINS ADVANCING.

LONDON, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A dispatch to The Times from Ostrook, dated August 30, says: "The Montenegrin camp was moved to-day to the plain between Niesica and the Duga Pass, in consequence of an attempt to relieve the city from Gatchko being apprehended."

HORRORS OF THE WAR IN ROUMELIA.

THE CHRISTIANS INCITED TO REVOLT BY THE PRESENCE OF RUSSIAN TROOPS—OLD SCORES PAID OFF—BLOODY REPRISALS BY THE TURKS—ESKI SAGHIRA GIVEN UP TO PLUNDER—AMERICAN MISSIONARIES RESPECTED.
[FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]
CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 31.—The rich valley of the Maritza is becoming a desert. The Bulgarian insurrection of last year involved the total destruction of about fifteen villages on the skirts of the mountains along the western part of the valley, besides the partial ruin of many others. The present war is wiping out of existence a whole lot of places in other parts of the valley. As soon as Gen. Ghourki's cavalry had spread over the country on this side of the Balkans, the Bulgarians were invited to revolt, and the panic of the Turks gave them boldness to do so. They committed themselves, heart and soul, to the Russian cause, established their little local governments, levied upon Moslem houses for expenses, tried by drum-head court-martial such old tyrants as they could catch; they organized a police and an army. Everything succeeded, and the revolt seemed so pleasant a thing that even in Philippopolis some weeks ago, the Bulgarians were on the point of attempting a rising under the very eyes of the Pasha. But there came a change. Turkish troops arrived from every side and swept over the country. The Russians assembled their scattered forces and deserted their Bulgarian allies, and the wretched villagers fought to the death when they found they could not flee. The Bulgarians had fortified positions at Karlevo and at Sapot, at the entrance of the Trojan Pass, but surrendered before the Turkish artillery fire. Near Chipran, the poor people, with their new flag, their new rifles and their new swords, made a stand, in hopes that the Russians would somehow intervene. But they were not able to hold out an hour, and died in dire dismay to islands in the Maritza River. No possible aid can reach them, and they must starve into submission at once. At Eski Saghira, the Russians established a division on July 22. The people in wild delight threw away their fez caps and donned their new black sheepskin shakos, and gave themselves up to all manner of demonstrations of joy—because Turkish rule was over for them. They established a government here too, raised volunteers and equipped a local police force. The rabble pillaged houses and shops of the Moslems—for the hour for reprisals had now arrived.

The Bulgarian Provisional Government at Eski Saghira, as soon as constituted, hanged six Turks and shot four others, after trial by court-martial, for firing from their houses upon the troops. Next day others were executed, and the next day, also, the formalities of trial being less in evidence, as until, at last, Turks were taken out of the city and killed by any Bulgarian who chose to do so, without form of trial. Ten Turks in one batch were so disposed of, the executioners hacking them down with swords so dull that three or four blows were needed in each case. At the same time an order was issued prohibiting the sale of food to Turks, the object being to starve the "into a surrender of their stock of secreted arms." At last, however, an order read in all the churches prohibited summary executions, and this stopped the killing of Turks, after perhaps a hundred executions had taken place. The city was then pretty quiet, but on Tuesday, July 31, the battle of Eski Saghira began, and by noon the Turkish shells began to fall among the houses, and the whole fabric of Bulgarian Government went to pieces. The Bulgarians had been alarmed by the firing ten miles east, the day before, and had anxiously questioned the Russian General, who reassured them with the statement that everything was going well. It was also understood that notice would be given to them if the Turkish advance should prove strong enough to force a retreat of the Russians. As soon as the shells began to howl through the streets there was a great movement in retreat of the Bulgarians, with their families and goods. The Russians, however, drove them back into the city at the point of the bayonet again and again, not choosing to be encumbered in retreat by such a mass. Only forty minutes before the Turkish skirmishers entered the streets were the Russian sentinels removed, so that the Bulgarians could leave the town. Then ensued a fearful stampede of the frightened crowd. All the joy and all the folly of the previous week made the collapse from hope to terror more complete. The mass of flying wagons with men, women and children choked the narrow pass which leads from Eski Saghira north to the Kasanlik Valley, and then the Turkish artillery increased the elevation of its guns, and, firing over the town with deadly accuracy, dropped its shells into the writhing mass in the pass. The Bulgarian volunteers, who were fighting in line outside, had orders to defend the town, and never received any instructions to desert. So they fell back upon the town, fighting, and continued stubbornly to fight in the streets, inflicting serious loss on the Turkish advance, receiving and asking no opportunity to surrender.

As the Turkish troops approached the city, the Moslem inhabitants began to issue forth from their hiding places. They hardly passed, however, to greet the troops who had delivered them. In fact, before the troops had fairly entered the place, the Moslem citizens brought out axes and began to break in the doors of all Bulgarian houses. Now was the opportunity to satisfy the covetings of years. Now was the time to revel in riches of the proud old patricians. There was no order to pillage issued. It was as if the understanding was general by an intuition. The Bulgarians had played their hand, and lost, and the instant this was evident the Moslems had their turn. It took hardly ten minutes to break in the doors of 500 houses. A rush was made for the residences of the richest nabobs, which were cleared out before the rabble undertook the systematic spoliation of every house which followed. There was a continuous and rapid fire of musketry going on all over the city at the same time. The Turks say that the Bulgarians fired from houses and churches upon the troops. There are no Bulgarians left to give their side of the story. All Bulgarian men seemed to be killed at sight, as if by arrangement. Women and children were spared as a general thing. But the hideous pillage, and the firing, and the shrieks and the shouts continued all night, and great districts of the city were burning, as if all the other horrors were not enough. At daylight Sultan Pasha ordered all Moslems and Jews—whom the Turks protect as if they were their own people—to leave the place, since his contemplated operations did not include any such thing as the defence of Eski Saghira. So the Turks loaded up their loot and their women and children on wagons, and went to the nearest railway station, followed by what seemed an endless train of Bulgarian women and children who had lost all. These could see, in the Turkish wagons, goods stolen from their homes, but they might not dare ask for them. Eski Saghira was left to the flames, and in its streets and in the surrounding villages the rattle of rifles was constant for three or four days. There seemed to be a purpose to kill every Bulgarian male over ten years of age. The fair city, set on a hill, used to look out over a plain which teemed with a busy peasantry in fertile fields. Now, from the seared and blistered hill, you look over the plain, and its forty villages are blackened ash-heaps, foul from the hand of death.

The attempt to ameliorate the condition of the Christians of this part of Turkey by war is not a brilliant success, and the mismanagement which armed these Bulgarians, and encouraged them to desperate fighting against their rulers, and then deserted them in their hour of sore need was a terrible crime. No one will ever know the exact loss of life at Eski Saghira. Seven thousand women and children of its Christian population are dependent on charity in Adrianople to-day. These people believe all of their male relatives to have been killed. This, however, is hardly so, since many Bulgarian men escaped with the Russians. But the City of Eski Saghira is entirely wiped out of existence.

THE AMERICAN MISSIONARIES SAFE.

TWO AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, THE REV. MESSRS. BOND and Marsh, with their wives and five small children were in Eski Saghira during the sacking of the place. I have seen them, and they tell me that at one time they sheltered some poor wretches who were in danger at the hands of the Bulgarian mob, and that, when the edict prohibiting the sale of food to Moslems was in force, they also fed some of their Moslem neighbors. In consequence of this and other kindnesses, their Moslem neighbors rallied around them during the destruction of the city, and saved their lives. The kindness of these Turks can be better appreciated in view of the fact that it was exercised at the cost of a tremendous self denial, for not a man of them but longed to be at work looting. These Turks had supplied axes in their hands, to break open doors, and they could not refrain from occasional raids for loot on neighboring Bulgarian houses, while they were defending from pillage the American families. At one time, the Circassians drew their swords and came at the missionaries to kill them, but these Turks withstood them, and, between entreaties and resistance, kept the ruffians away, although in one case the missionaries had to pay a Circassian \$50, gold, as ransom. The Turks then went word to the Governor of the city, who at once came to see the missionaries, and provided them with a guard of regular soldiers, which kept off all marauders, and thirty or more Bulgarians were saved from death in their houses. These missionaries lost everything they possessed, however, by the fire, escaping to the railroad with only the clothes they had on, and on the road sleeping for three nights on bare ground, and living on raw wheat. They have come through a terrible experience, but they have the satisfaction of knowing that, by standing at their posts, they made a little haven of refuge for both Turks and Bulgarians, and throughout the horrors of those days were looked up to for counsel and comfort. I judge that the missionaries are not entirely cast down as, when one was mentioning the loss of his sermons, I overheard the other reply, "Yes, the destruction of Eski Saghira has thus caused a loss to the whole Christian world, as well as to the benighted heathen."

THE FLAG OF THE PROPHECY.

There have been many rumors here that the holy flag of the Prophet would be brought out as a rallying point for the whole nation, in view of the aspect of affairs. In fact, it is said that the Sultan has so long resisted the pressure of the people for this, that the venerable flag has three times undertaken to shame him by going forth of its own accord by a flight from the window. For ten days the Christians of this city have been in terror by reason of this rumor, as they believe that the appearance of the flag would be the signal for a general attack on Christians. Three times my servants have come to me with white faces to say that such a day had been fixed for the massacre—the breadman said so—and every time they put unshaken faith in the new computation of dates, like the Adventists in matters of the end of the world. The Turks, also, are in terror much of the time, lest the Christians rise and massacre them. Thus many of the people of this city lead lives that are wretched from fear. The flag which has caused such terror in the kitchens of Constantinople—the Sanjak-Sherif it is called—is an innocent piece of rotten and faded silk, which used to be covered with sacred writings, and once was green in color. The only legible word remaining upon it is "Amen" (world), which appears in a secluded fold near the staff. This flag is never unfurled—nor, indeed, can be, from rotteness—a characteristic which moralists may use for the basis of a simile connected with the nation to whom the flag belongs. The flag is kept rolled on its staff and covered with a green satin cover, the whole packed away in a gold or gilded box. When the holy standard is to be brought out, it is carried in its green cover through the streets of Constantinople, and, after the city walls are passed, it is "in the field." It is then stored away in the golden box once more, and this is carried with the army, much as the Jews used to take the Ark of the Covenant into the wars. When it is in the field every Moslem is in duty bound to go to the wars. It is not, commonly, a signal for a general attack on Christians, although it does mean that no quarter will be given in battle. The danger of its display is, that the people, being called upon in a general way to make war, so as each after his own style. The bringing out of the great flag in this war would be an abrogation of the Geneva Convention for the amelioration of suffering on the battlefield.

HOPES OF E. L. DAVENPORT'S RECOVERY.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 31.—A dispatch received this morning from Canton, Penn., states that Mr. E. L. Davenport, the actor, passed an easy night, and under existing circumstances, strong hopes are entertained by his physicians of his recovery.

CANTON, PENN., Aug. 31.—Mr. Davenport is stronger this evening and resting easy.

DISASTEROUS TORNADO IN ILLINOIS.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 31.—A heavy storm passed over Gilman, Ill., yesterday, prostrating a number of houses. The flouring mills of John B. Grayson & Son were completely destroyed. One mill hand was killed by falling timbers. Loss estimated at \$97,000.

WASHINGTON.
THE NEW-YORK CUSTOM HOUSE.

INSPECTORS DETECTED IN FAVORITISM AND EXTORTION—NAVAL OFFICER CORNELL—THE QUESTION OF REORGANIZATION TO BE DISPOSED OF SOON.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—Repeated complaints have been received at the Treasury Department from passengers arriving in New-York from abroad, that great favoritism was shown to certain persons in the examination of their personal baggage, while the trunks of others were subjected to the most rigid inspection, and duties in excess of those required by law were sometimes levied upon their contents. So frequent were these reports that the Secretary of the Treasury sent a special agent to New-York to make a secret investigation. The result of his inquiry was the discovery that at least six inspectors of passengers' baggage have been guilty of the offences they were accused of, or had accepted bribes for the passage of baggage without examination. The report of the agent gives many examples of this kind of favoritism. For instance, a gentleman with his wife, two children and two servants, landed at New-York, bringing with them twenty trunks, containing large quantities of baggage, much of which was by law subject to duty. Not a single one of these trunks was opened, and not a cent of duty was collected. Two ladies, who arrived at about the same time, with only four or five trunks, were required to pay \$1,200 on articles some of which are not believed to have been subject to duty under the law. In no case discovered was the bribe received large, but in many instances the inspectors were paid \$20, \$25 and \$30, and in such instances no duty was imposed on the baggage owned by passengers who paid it. Orders will be immediately issued for the removal of these six inspectors. Two of them have already telegraphed to the Secretary of the Treasury, indicating a desire to resign, but it is believed that no resignations will be accepted, as it is the intention of the Secretary of the Treasury to make an example of those who have been guilty of these irregular practices. It was remarked at the Treasury Department to-day that no information had been received tending to show that the inspectors guilty of this criminal favoritism had been acting under orders from superior officers, and no communications from any of them defending their course have been received.

Chief of Special Treasury Agents Tingle, went to New-York last night, for the purpose of examining into the "charges and commissions" cases which have been under consideration by the Secretary of the Treasury for some time. These cases consist of the claims of merchants for duties illegally exacted many years ago, and for which judgments against the United States have been obtained. The greater portion of these claims have already been paid, but their liquidation was suspended by Secretary Sherman some time ago. Special Agent Tingle's report will probably be made the ground of future action on the part of the Secretary.

The reports of a serious misunderstanding between the President and Naval Officer Cornell, on account of the latter's neglect to resign either his position in the Custom House or his place on the National and State Republican Committees, are, to say the least, premature. Mr. Cornell has had no official communication either with the President or with the Secretary of the Treasury upon the subject; but it is understood that in private letters written to friends in this city and shown to the President, he has disclaimed any intention of making an issue with the President on the subject of his civil service order. The opinion that some tacit understanding exists between the President and Mr. Cornell prevails among those in Washington best informed on the subject, and it is believed that if no general overhauling of the Custom House is made before the New-York Republican State Convention meets, and Mr. Cornell at that time still remains in the Naval Officer, he will, after calling the State Convention to order, tender to his resignation as Chairman of the State Committee. In any event members of the Administration, who certainly ought to know, express the belief that no controversy will arise between the President or the Secretary of the Treasury and Cornell over the civil service order. The report current on the streets here this afternoon, and published in The Evening Star, that the order for Cornell's suspension was given by the Cabinet to-day, is untrue.

The reorganization of the New-York Custom House, and the appointment of new men to the most important positions in it—such as those of Collector, Surveyor and Naval Officer—was incidentally mentioned in the Cabinet meeting to-day; but its formal consideration was postponed until next week, in order that it may be discussed in the presence of Secretary Evans, who is expected to return on Monday or Tuesday. It is at least certain that no conclusion has yet been reached by the President and his Cabinet on this subject; but there is now every indication that it will be disposed of before the President starts on his Western and Southern tour, either by a request to the prominent officers of the New-York Custom House to tender their resignations, or a decision to allow all of them except Surveyor Sharpe, whose term of office has expired, to remain until after the meeting of Congress.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.
DISTILLED SPIRITS.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A statement was to-day submitted to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Bureau showing the following facts in regard to distilled spirits—other than brandy produced from apples, peaches and grapes exclusively—as follows: Quantity of spirits in bottles July 1, 1876, 12,984,896 gallons. Quantity of spirits in bottles July 1, 1877, 13,416,576 gallons. Quantity of spirits produced during year ended July 1, 1876, 57,959,647 gallons. Quantity of spirits produced during year ended July 1, 1877, 59,012,268 gallons. Quantity of spirits, tax-paid, during year ended July 1, 1876, 56,959,389 gallons. Quantity of spirits, tax-paid, during year ended July 1, 1877, 56,845,925 gallons. Tax received during year ended July 1, 1876, \$50,551,195.30. Tax received during year ended July 1, 1877, \$51,161,664.30. The quantity of distilled spirits removed from distillery warehouses for export during the year ended June 30, 1875, was 537,413 gallons; the quantity so removed during the year ended June 30, 1876, was 1,206,909 gallons, and the quantity so removed during the year ended June 30, 1877, was 2,229,528 gallons—an increase of 1,220,628 gallons over the quantity removed for export during the fiscal year 1876, and an increase of the year 1876 over the year 1875. The increase in exportations appears to be in consequence of the increased demand for alcohol in Europe and the East.

HONORS TO THE LATE E. L. STANTON.

The Bar Association of the District of Columbia held a meeting in their rooms in this city to-day to take appropriate action in respect to the death of Edwin L. Stanton. Remarks were made by R. T. Merrick, President of the Association, and N. Wilson, A. G. Riddle, Thomas J. Durant, J. Hubley Ashton and R. K. Eldredge. A committee, appointed for that purpose, reported appropriate resolutions, which were unanimously adopted. The association then voted to attend the funeral of President Hayes, and to call a special meeting of the Bar of the city on the 23d of September for the purpose of giving all its members an opportunity to testify their respect for the memory of Mr. Stanton.

DEDICATION OF THE NEW HEBREW SYNAGOGUE.

The synagogue of the Washington Hebrew congregation in this city, recently rebuilt, was dedicated this evening with the appropriate services of the Jewish faith. Many prominent persons were in the congregation. President Hayes, who promised to attend, was prevented from doing so by official business, and sent a message explaining his regret at being unable to fulfill his promise. The dedication sermon was preached by Rabbi B. Seid of Baltimore.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
Following is a statement of the operations of the National Bank Redemption Agency for the month of August as compared with the corresponding period of last year: Notes fit for circulation deposited and returned to the Bank of issue, \$15,108,700; notes unfit for circulation sent to the Controller of the Currency for destruction and replaced with new notes, \$3,736,100; notes of failed, liquidating and redeeming banks deposited, \$1,018,900. Total for August, 1877, \$19,853,700. Total for August, 1876, \$22,223,000. Decrease, \$2,369,300.

The Secretary of War has expressed the opinion that the railroads over which troops were transported during the late labor troubles, are entitled to compensation for such transportation, notwithstanding the fact that the troops were used to protect railroad property. This opinion is in accordance with the precedent established during the late war, when the Secretary of War has directed the Quartermaster-General to hold the bills for such transportation until all of the railroad companies have presented their claims, when he will give a formal opinion on the question raised.

Postmaster-General Key has not received a single letter from the South criticizing his New-England speeches, but he has received many letters from that section—both from friends and strangers—approving the liberal sentiments he expressed in his recent addresses. Those who write to him express very kindly feelings towards the Administration.

The Superintendent of the Government Printing Office has issued a circular to Senators and Representatives requesting them not to lend their influence in behalf of any person seeking a position in the Government. The circular also states that the Government will not employ any person who is intended in the future to run the office according to his judgment.

Attorney-General Devens has given an adverse opinion to the New Jersey Mining Company's request that the question of the title to the quicksilver mine at the State of New Jersey be referred to the Supreme Court. This will leave this celebrated case to be settled by the Court and Congress.

Theophilus Gaines, recently appointed United States Attorney for Montana, has tendered his resignation, and it has been accepted by the President.

A TOWN BURNED.

TEN BLOCKS OF BUSINESS AND DWELLING HOUSES DESTROYED AT PARIS, MO.—THE WORK OF A MADMAN.
ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 31.—The Globe-Democrat's special dispatch from Paris, Mo., to-day, states that a fire broke out about one o'clock this afternoon in the City Saloon, and spread rapidly on the east, west and north sides of the public square, until about ten blocks of business houses and dwellings were consumed, including three hotels, the post-office, telegraph and express offices. The loss is estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. Many families are without shelter, and several lives are reported to have been lost. It is said that a man named Taylor set fire to the City Saloon by pouring oil on the floor and lighting it with the remark that he would "burn the town down." He was arrested and lodged in jail. There was only one fire engine in town, and the water gave out, leaving the city at the mercy of the flames. The amount of insurance has not been ascertained.

THE BROKEN CHICAGO BANK.

ITS CONDITION WORSE THAN AT FIRST SUPPOSED.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
CHICAGO, Ill., Aug. 31.—An examination of the affairs of the State Savings Institution begins to show that the condition of its assets and liabilities are worse than which were made by former estimates. Apparently not more than \$200,000 will be realized from all sources. The records of the bank show that, two days prior to making the assignment and at a time when they must have known that failure was imminent—several of the directors who had given notes for their stock, had these notes cancelled and returned to them and the stock turned over to the bank. Nothing has been heard from Mr. Spencer or from the cashier and his assistant, Buckley. In view of the frauds perpetrated by Mr. Spencer, who has evidently swindled the bank of a million of dollars or more, his return may not be expected.

The run upon the Faculty Bank continued to-day, but it was quite less than on Saturday. The proposed sale meeting on behalf of the creditors of the Faculty Bank, called for to-morrow night, is greatly talked about. There is considerable feeling against the assignee, Col. Taylor, which seems to have increased greatly today, and it is expected that the meeting to-morrow night will be attended by Col. Taylor removed and some other person substituted in his place.

IOWA CENTRAL RAILROAD.

A MASTER APPOINTED TO TAKE THE WRITTEN VOTE OF THE BONDHOLDERS IN REGARD TO REORGANIZATION—JUDGE DILLON VINDICATED.
DES MOINES, Ia., Aug. 31.—The United States Circuit Court has been in session three days, considering the famous Iowa Central Railroad case. Counsel from New-York and Philadelphia, and from various parts of the State were present. The Court confirmed the sale of the road to the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company for the benefit of the bondholders, and ordered a deed made accordingly. Three new companies were formed by the different factions of the bondholders, one known as the Cate party and the others as the Cowdry and the Gilman parties. Each was desirous of being granted power to reorganize as the company to which the trustees were to be ordered to convey the property. This matter the Court referred to be determined by the written vote of the bondholders, and appointed a Master to take such vote and report. Judges Dillon and Lovett, in presence of the judges and the counsel, called attention to the charges against Judge Dillon, which have been published and agitated by the press. Judge Dillon was demonstrated, and the counsel in the case when certain statements in the public press were read, and Judge Dillon held a meeting looking toward proper action against the authors of these assaults on his reputation. The Court of the Court, Judge Lovejoy sustained Judge Dillon.

An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States from the order confirming the sale by the Cowdry party.

WASHINGTON.
THE NEW-YORK CUSTOM HOUSE.

INSPECTORS DETECTED IN FAVORITISM AND EXTORTION—NAVAL OFFICER CORNELL—THE QUESTION OF REORGANIZATION TO BE DISPOSED OF SOON.
[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]
WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—Repeated complaints have been received at the Treasury Department from passengers arriving in New-York from abroad, that great favoritism was shown to certain persons in the examination of their personal baggage, while the trunks of others were subjected to the most rigid inspection, and duties in excess of those required by law were sometimes levied upon their contents. So frequent were these reports that the Secretary of the Treasury sent a special agent to New-York to make a secret investigation. The result of his inquiry was the discovery that at least six inspectors of passengers' baggage have been guilty of the offences they were accused of, or had accepted bribes for the passage of baggage without examination. The report of the agent gives many examples of this kind of favoritism. For instance, a gentleman with his wife, two children and two servants, landed at New-York, bringing with them twenty trunks, containing large quantities of baggage, much of which was by law subject to duty. Not a single one of these trunks was opened, and not a cent of duty was collected. Two ladies, who arrived at about the same time, with only four or five trunks, were required to pay \$1,200 on articles some of which are not believed to have been subject to duty under the law. In no case discovered was the bribe received large, but in many instances the inspectors were paid \$20, \$25 and \$30, and in such instances no duty was imposed on the baggage owned by passengers who paid it. Orders will be immediately issued for the removal of these six inspectors. Two of them have already telegraphed to the Secretary of the Treasury, indicating a desire to resign, but it is believed that no resignations will be accepted, as it is the intention of the Secretary of the Treasury to make an example of those who have been guilty of these irregular practices. It was remarked at the Treasury Department to-day that no information had been received tending to show that the inspectors guilty of this criminal favoritism had been acting under orders from superior officers, and no communications from any of them defending their course have been received.

Chief of Special Treasury Agents Tingle, went to New-York last night, for the purpose of examining into the "charges and commissions" cases which have been under consideration by the Secretary of the Treasury for some time. These cases consist of the claims of merchants for duties illegally exacted many years ago, and for which judgments against the United States have been obtained. The greater portion of these claims have already been paid, but their liquidation was suspended by Secretary Sherman some time ago. Special Agent Tingle's report will probably be made the ground of future action on the part of the Secretary.

The reports of a serious misunderstanding between the President and Naval Officer Cornell, on account of the latter's neglect to resign either his position in the Custom House or his place on the National and State Republican Committees, are, to say the least, premature. Mr. Cornell has had no official communication either with the President or with the Secretary of the Treasury upon the subject; but it is understood that in private letters written to friends in this city and shown to the President, he has disclaimed any intention of making an issue with the President on the subject of his civil service order. The opinion that some tacit understanding exists between the President and Mr. Cornell prevails among those in Washington best informed on the subject, and it is believed that if no general overhauling of the Custom House is made before the New-York Republican State Convention meets, and Mr. Cornell at that time still remains in the Naval Officer, he will, after calling the State Convention to order, tender to his resignation as Chairman of the State Committee. In any event members of the Administration, who certainly ought to know, express the belief that no controversy will arise between the President or the Secretary of the Treasury and Cornell over the civil service order. The report current on the streets here this afternoon, and published in The Evening Star, that the order for Cornell's suspension was given by the Cabinet to-day, is untrue.

The reorganization of the New-York Custom House, and the appointment of new men to the most important positions in it—such as those of Collector, Surveyor and Naval Officer—was incidentally mentioned in the Cabinet meeting to-day; but its formal consideration was postponed until next week, in order that it may be discussed in the presence of Secretary Evans, who is expected to return on Monday or Tuesday. It is at least certain that no conclusion has yet been reached by the President and his Cabinet on this subject; but there is now every indication that it will be disposed of before the President starts on his Western and Southern tour, either by a request to the prominent officers of the New-York Custom House to tender their resignations, or a decision to allow all of them except Surveyor Sharpe, whose term of office has expired, to remain until after the meeting of Congress.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.
DISTILLED SPIRITS.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Aug. 31, 1877.
A statement was to-day submitted to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Bureau showing the following facts in regard to distilled spirits—other than brandy produced from apples, peaches and grapes exclusively—as follows: Quantity of spirits in bottles July 1, 1876, 12,984,896 gallons. Quantity of spirits in bottles July 1, 1877, 13,416,576 gallons. Quantity of spirits produced during year ended July 1, 1876, 57,959,647 gallons. Quantity of spirits produced during year ended July 1, 1877, 59,012,268 gallons. Quantity of spirits, tax-paid, during year ended July 1, 1876, 56,959,389 gallons. Quantity of spirits, tax-paid, during year ended July 1, 1877, 56,845,925 gallons. Tax received during year ended July 1, 1876, \$50,551,195.30. Tax received during year ended July 1, 1877, \$51,161,664.30. The quantity of distilled spirits removed from distillery warehouses for export during the year ended June 30, 1875, was 537,413 gallons; the quantity so removed during the year ended June 30, 1876, was 1,206,909 gallons, and the quantity so removed during the year ended June 30, 1877, was 2,229,528 gallons—an increase of 1,220,628 gallons over the quantity removed for export during the fiscal year 1876, and an increase of the year 1876 over the year 1875. The increase in exportations appears to be in consequence of the increased demand for alcohol in Europe and the East.

HONORS TO THE LATE E. L. STANTON.

The Bar Association of the District of Columbia held a meeting in their rooms in this city to-day to take appropriate action in respect to the death of Edwin L. Stanton. Remarks were made by R. T. Merrick, President